

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. this sheet, which includes Figs 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-2. In Fig. 2, previously omitted blowers 13a, 13b, 13c and burner 14 have been added.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 22 were objected to for informalities and the drawings were objected to for not showing all of the features cited in the invention. In addition, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as not being enabled, and under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 9-15, and 17-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. EP 0 967 366 to Linnemeyer (“Linnemeyer”) and as being further anticipated by International Published Patent Application WO 94/29462 to Kessler et al. (“Kessler et al.”). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by prior art discussed at pages 9 and 10 of the present application (“prior art”). Finally, claims 2-8 and 16 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112, first and second paragraphs.

In this response, claims 1, 22, and 23 have been cancelled, claims 2, 9, 13, 16, 17, and 20, have been amended, and new claim 24 has been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 2-24 will be pending. Reconsideration of the application based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 12 and 22 were objected to for informalities.

Applicants have cancelled claim 22. With respect to claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of “performed at at least one” is proper, since the recitation refers to the location at which the combustion is to be reformed. Specifically that the combustion be performed “at” one or both of the first and second locations. Thus, it is proper to recite that the combustion be performed at “at least one” of the first and second locations.

Withdrawal of the objections to claims 12 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Drawings Objections:

The drawings were objected to for not showing all of the features recited in claims, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19.

Applicants have amended Fig. 2 of the drawings to add a blowers 13a, 13b, 13c and burner 14 as described in the original application, for example, at paragraphs [0038], [0039], and [0040]. Those paragraphs of the specification have also been amended to include the new reference numbers from Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

The heating of the hot gas recited in claim 9 is now shown by burner 14 of amended Fig. 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the “regulating” recited in claim 13 is also shown in Figs. 2 and 3 (see flap 10 and blower 13a). Likewise, Figs. 2 and 3 also show the adjusting device of claim 15 (flap 10), the delivery device of claim 15 (blower 13a), the flap of claim 16 (flap 10), and the blower of claim 16 (blower 13a). Regarding claim 22, a regulator (flap 10 and blower 13a) and device (burner 14) are shown in Fig. 2.

Applicants furthermore submit the hot water generator and the steam generator recited in claim 18, are shown in Figs 1, 2, and 3 by reference numeral 3. See, for example, paragraph [0030]. Likewise, the gas turbine plant and the heat recovery boiler are shown by reference numeral 1 in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. See, for example, paragraphs [0030] and [0048].

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully submitted.

Rejections to Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph:

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. §112, first paragraph as not being enabled, and under 35 U.S. C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that it is unclear from the specification what is meant by parameter, and that it is unclear from the specification what parameter is being adapted/adjusted/regulated.

Applicants respectfully submit that the term “parameter” recited in the preambles of claims 1 and 22 is sufficiently described in the specification, is well understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art and is recited sufficiently definitely in the claims.

The term “parameter” is a well-defined and well understood term to a person of ordinary skill in the art. According to Miriam Webster’s Online Dictionary, parameter is defined as “any of a set of physical properties whose values determine the characteristics or behavior of something <parameters of the atmosphere such as temperature, pressure, and density>.” Furthermore, the

specification specifically describes the parameters of a gas in this context as including at least mass flow, temperature and pressure. See for example, paragraph [0007] and [0019].

In order to provide more clarity for the term in claims 1 and 22, applicants have added new dependent claims 24 and 25 to further define that the parameter includes at least one of a mass flow, a temperature and a pressure.

Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements of §112 do not require the applicant to narrow the scope of claim 1 to one or two specific parameters because the term in the preamble of the claim does not include a specific definition in the specification. The term parameter is well understood in the art. The steps of the method claims are clearly and unambiguously recited. Thus, performing the recited method steps so as to adapt *any* parameter of the hot gas is sufficient to fall within the scope of the claims.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 2-8 and 16 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112, first and second paragraphs.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which it originally depended. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 16 to include all of the limitations from claims 1, 13, and 15, from which it originally depended. Claims 9, 13, 17, and 20 have been amended to change their dependencies to claim 2. Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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